

News Release

For immediate release
USDI Bureau of Land Management

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BLM SEEKS ENVIRONMENTAL INPUT FOR RESOURCE PANEL

PORTLAND, January 27, 2003 -- The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is seeking applicants for the Eastern Washington Resource Advisory Council (RAC), which has one vacant position to represent interests of **national or regional environmental groups**. The RAC advises and recommends management strategies for federal lands located in whole or in part within the Spokane District of the BLM and the Colville and Okanogan National Forests. The **nomination period ends March 24, 2003**. Appointees serve a three-year term.

Candidates must reside in Washington. Individuals may nominate themselves or others, and each nomination must have a letter of recommendation from a regional or national environmental organization. For a nomination form or additional information, please contact Pam Robbins, Bureau of Land Management, (pam_robbins@blm.gov), P. O. Box 2965, Portland, OR 97208-2965, (503) 808-6306. Forms are available at the BLM State Office (333 S.W. First Avenue), or the Spokane BLM District Office (1103 N. Fancher Road, Spokane). Additional RAC information is on the internet at <http://www.or.blm.gov/spokane/RAC/racindex.htm> or by calling their office at (509) 536-1200.

The Federal Advisory Committee Act requires that RAC membership be balanced and representative of the various interests concerned with public land management. Council members are unpaid, but are reimbursed for travel and per diem expenses. The RAC usually meets in Spokane, at least twice yearly.

The RACs are an integral part of land management for federal agencies. Local RACs provide critical input on resource issues that include land exchanges and activity management plans for specific areas. The first product developed by RACs was the *Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Management*.

The BLM, an agency of the U.S. Department of the Interior, manages more land-262 million surface acres-than any other Federal agency. Most of the country's BLM-managed public land is located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The Bureau, which has a budget of \$1.8 billion and a workforce of 10,000 employees, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the Nation. The BLM's "multiple use" mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The BLM accomplishes this by managing for such resources as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, and energy and mineral development that helps meet the nation's energy needs, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on the public lands. Additionally, the BLM is responsible for and manages the survey and title records of the public domain, private land claims, and Indian lands.